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SIR TRUEBADOUR GIVES ASMUSSEN HIS RECORD-EQUALING FIFTH BASHFORD MANOR

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, June 30, 2018) – **Whispering Oaks Farm LLC's Sir Truebadour** led every step of the way in Saturday's 117th running of the \$100,000 Bashford Manor (Grade III) on closing day at Churchill Downs' 38-day Spring Meet to beat **Mr Chocolate Chip** by two lengths and give Hall of Fame trainer **Steve Asmussen** an impressive fifth win in the nation's first graded stakes race for 2-year-olds.

Ridden by **Ricardo Santana Jr.**, Sir Truebadour, who was sent to post as the hot 3-2 favorite, ran six furlongs over a fast main track in 1:12.77 – the slowest of 19 Bashford Manor renewals at the six-furlong distance.

Sir Truebadour was leg weary late in the stretch but had a jump on his 11 rivals after breaking alertly from post 4. He battled from the inside with 48-1 longshot **The Song of John** and **Mr. Granite** for the early lead and ran the first quarter mile in a swift :21.35. The Song of John got within a half-length of Sir Truebadour at the top of the stretch but the winner spurted clear after a half mile in :45.63 and drew clear midway down the lane, and had enough to hold on comfortably.

"Steve and his team did a great job with this horse," Santana said. "It was a great win today. He is very fast early and got the lead nicely out of the gate. He got a little tired late but held on nicely to win."

Asmussen, who was the Spring Meet's leading trainer for a record-extending 19th time with 30 wins, previously won the Bashford Manor with **Lunarpal** (2004), **Kodiak Kowboy** (2007), **Kantharos** (2010) and **Cinco Charlie** (2014) and his victory equaled fellow Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas'** win record for the race.

Ten of Asmussen's 30 wins during the meet came with 2-year-olds.

Sir Truebadour's triumph was worth \$57,660 and increased his bankroll to \$93,360 with a record of two wins and a fourth in three starts. The younger half-brother to \$1.8 million-earner and 2011 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint (GII) champ **Regally Ready** impressively won by four lengths at first asking on May 17 at Churchill Downs and then finished fourth in the \$150,000 Tremont at Belmont Park on June 8, two lengths behind winner **Our Braintrust**.

"We aimed to this race since he broke his maiden," Asmussen said. "It's great to win a graded stakes race. He got a little tired late but it was a great win."

Sir Truebadour is a 2-year-old son of More Than Ready out of the King of Kings (IRE) mare Kivi. He was bred in Kentucky by **Two Stamps Stables**.

Sir Truebadour returned \$5, \$3.80 and \$3. Mr Chocolate Chip, a Belterra Park winner who rallied for second under Euclyn Prentice Jr. at odds of 103-1, paid \$52 and \$17 and finished 1 ¼ lengths in front of Indiana Grand maiden winner **Overanalyzer** who paid \$13.60 to show under **Andreas Ulloa** at 99-1.

Cat Addiction, Kentucky Juvenile winner **Weiland**, The Song of John, **Dalliance**, 2-1 second betting choice **Shanghaied Roo**, Baytown Glory, California invader and 5-2 third choice **Toothless Wonder**, **Eye Cloud** and Mr. Granite completed the order of finish. **Tales of Chaucer** was scratched to instead run in the \$100,000 Rockville Centre against New York-breds over six furlongs on July 14 at Belmont Park.

First run in 1902, the Bashford Manor is named for the former Louisville Thoroughbred breeding and racing farm that dominated the American racing scene in the early 1900s. **George J. Long**, a wealthy foundry owner, purchased **Bashford Manor Farm** in 1887 and developed his Thoroughbred operation that provided him two Derby wins as an owner, 1892 (**Azra**) and 1906 (**Sir Huon**), and three as a breeder, 1892 (**Azra**), 1899 (**Manuel**) and 1906 (**Sir Huon**). In addition, Bashford Manor also won the Kentucky Oaks in 1894 (**Selika**) and 1915 (**Kathleen**). The original **Wilder family** owned Bashford Manor. The Wilders were direct descendants of **Lord Baltimore**, whose English home was also called Bashford Manor. Long died in 1930 and the farm was eventually sold in 1973 to make way for the development of a mall complex, fittingly named Bashford Manor, that formally closed in 2003.

The Bashford Manor was the last of three stakes races on Saturday's closing day card at Churchill Downs.

Earlier, **Three Chimneys Farm LLC** and **Fern Circle Stables'** 2-year-old filly **Restless Rider** overcame trouble on the turn to convincingly beat **Shanghai Rain** by a record 11 ¼ lengths in the 118th running of the \$100,000 Debutante (Listed) to give trainer **Kenny McPeck** his second consecutive win in the race. She clocked six furlongs in 1:10.62 – more than two seconds faster than Sir Truebadour's winning time – under **Brian Hernandez Jr.**

In the ninth running of the \$68,130 Kelly's Landing Overnight Stakes, **Frank Fletcher Racing's C Z Rocket** rebounded from a third-place finish in his 4-year-old debut to romp by four lengths over **Storm Advisory**. The City Zip colt ran seven furlongs in a stakes record 1:21.51 under **Shaun Bridgmohan** to collect his first stakes win. Trained by **Al Stall Jr.**, C Z Rocket banked \$40,200 and improved his record to 6-4-0-1—\$164,075. He paid \$6.60 to win as the 2-1 second betting choice. Favored **Warrior's Club** was a half-length back of the runner-up in third.

At the conclusion of the card, the champions of the Spring Meet were decided. Asmussen had six more wins than runner-up **Brad Cox**, who had 24 wins and a meet-best \$1,616,482 in earnings, in the race to be leading trainer. Brian Hernandez Jr. collected his first Churchill Downs riding title with 43 wins, five more than runner-up **Florent Geroux**, who topped all riders with \$2,183,479. And for the 31st time in Churchill Downs history, **Ken and Sarah Ramsey** were the leading owners with nine wins.

Racing in Kentucky will shift to Ellis Park on Sunday. Action at Churchill Downs will return Sept. 14 for the sixth annual 11-date September Meeting, which will continue through Sept. 30.

BASHFORD MANOR QUOTES

RICARDO SANTANA JR., jockey of SIR TRUEBADOUR (winner): "Steve and his team did a great job with this horse. It was a great win today. He is very fast early and got the lead nicely out of the gate. He got a little tired late but held on nicely to win."

STEVE ASMUSSEN, trainer of SIR TRUEBADOUR (winner): "We aimed to this race since he broke his maiden (on May 17). It's great to win a graded stakes race. He got a little tired late but it was a great win."

EUCLYN "PEDE" PRENTICE JR., jockey of MR CHOCOLATE CHIP (runner-up): "He ran a great effort. He was a little green in the stretch but closed ground well. It was a great race."

MARIO GUTIERREZ, jockey of TOOTHLESS WONDER (tenth): "We got into a lot of trouble off the turn. Two horses bumped with me and we got shuffled back."

KELLY'S LANDING QUOTES

SHAUN BRIDGMOHAN, jockey of C Z ROCKET (winner): "I have to give credit to Al and his staff for really bringing along this horse. I think he probably needed his last race and came into today in great shape. We sat a great trip behind the speed and really closed strongly late.

MELANIE GIDDINGS, assistant trainer of C Z ROCKET (winner): "This horse has a lot of class. He keeps getting better with every start. This race was a great stepping stone to hopefully bigger and better things down the road."

BRIAN WILLIAMSON, trainer of STORM ADVISORY (runner-up): "We're so proud of him. He ran a huge effort. I thought for a minute we could've stole it on the front end but we were just second best."

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